

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated February 20, 2004.

Applicant has cancelled the non-elected claims, 1-8 and 27-29, and has cancelled claims 14 and 21.

Claims 9-13, 15- 20, and 22-26 remain in the application.

BACKGROUND

Applicant provides a radiant heat insulation blanket assembly for reflecting heat in a wall structure. A cell blanket includes pair of superposed support sheets of flexible material connected together with an array of seams that form gas filled cells therebetween, and a radiant heat reflective surface positioned in the cells for reflecting radiant heat away from the blanket. The support sheets, or at least one of them, is translucent so that the heat rays readily pass through the translucent sheet and are reflected by the radiant heat reflective surface between the sheets. The placement of the heat reflective surface between the superposed support sheets avoids the accumulation of dust, etc. from contact with the reflective surface, thereby preserving the reflectivity of the reflective surface.

The construction of the radiant heat insulation cell blanket is such that it is compatible with insulation blankets made of fiberglass and other materials, such as mineral wool, that might shed fibers or other dust-like matter and is compatible with the areas where dust, cobwebs, and other items might contact the insulation blanket. All of this can happen without occluding the reflectivity of the heat reflective surface.

The prior art does not show a cell blanket with the translucent sheet in combination with the internal heat reflective surface and does not provide the disclosure of a fibrous blanket that can be used in combination with the cell blanket as described.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9-16 are rejected under § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Lindsay ('089).

Lindsay discloses a radiant barrier apparatus, with Figs. 6-8 and 12-14 being the pertinent figures.

As shown in Fig. 8, the gaseous bag 30 formed of a pair of substrate layers 32 and 38 formed of polyester film, etc., with aluminized or metallized layers 34, 36, 38 and 42 applied thereto. These layers are sealed or secured together at their outer peripheries and filled with some type of gas. This structure indicates that the bags are not translucent. The substrates 32 and 38 are not disclosed as being transparent, and the substrates are coated on both sides with aluminized layers.

In contrast, claims 9-13, 15 and 16 are limited to at least one of said support sheets of the cell blanket being formed of translucent material. In addition, these claims recite a fibrous heat insulation blanket applied to one of the support sheets of the radiant heat insulation blanket, with the fibrous heat insulation blanket configured for placement between joists of a wall structure. Again, this is not disclosed in the applied reference.

Accordingly, applicant submits that claims 9-13, 15 and 16 adequately distinguish over the applied reference and avoid rejection under § 102.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19-24 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindsay ('089) in view of Kristal.

Claim 19 recites that at least one of its support sheets includes a heat reflective surface facing within the cells for reflecting radiant heat, and the other of the support sheets being translucent. The applied references do not disclose this feature or suggest that this feature would be obvious. While Kristal discloses what appears to be a conventional bubble pack, and conventional bubble pack is translucent, there is no suggestion that Lindsay could be modified to be translucent. Further, there is no suggestion that it would be obvious to modify Lindsay so that one surface is translucent while the other surface is not.

Claim 20 also includes the feature of one of the support sheets including a heat reflective surface facing within the cells for reflecting radiant heat, and the other of the support sheets being translucent.

Claim 21 is cancelled. The limitations of claim 21 have been added to its parent claim, claim 19.

Claim 22 adds the limitation to its parent claim 19 of the fibrous heat insulation blanket applied to one of the support sheets.

Claim 23 adds the feature of board being applied to one of the support sheets.

Claim 24 specifies the type of gas that fills the cells.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

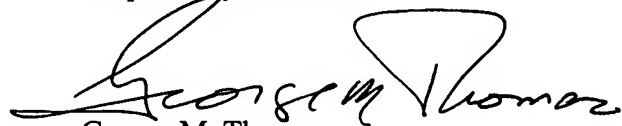
Claim 17, 18, 25 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, these claims have been rewritten to place them in independent form, by including all the limitations of their respective parent claims. Accordingly, applicant submits that these claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims of the application now adequately distinguish over the applied prior art, and appropriate action is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George M. Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" and "T".

George M. Thomas
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